

Appl. No. 10/669,221
Atty. Docket No. 2003B101
Response dated February 23, 2007

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. This Response replies to the Office Action mailed October 24, 2006 and the advisory action mailed February 9, 2007.

Applicants have amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 2. Claims 1 and 3-18 are pending.

Examiner Teleconference

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for discussing the pending rejections via teleconference on February 23, 2007. No agreements were reached.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants expressly bring to the Examiner's attention co-pending related application serial no. 10/803,318 and will submit under separate cover a supplemental disclosure statement related thereto.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) - Anticipation

Claims 1 and 3-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by International Publication WO 2001/98409 ("the 409 publication").

This rejection is moot in view of Applicants' claim amendments. The 409 publication does not teach A/B/A film structures composed of "A" skin layers comprising an mLLDPE having a density of between about 0.918 and 0.927 g/cm³, as recited in the pending claims.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) - Obviousness

Claims 1 and 3-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over the 409 publication. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the 409 publication does not teach or suggest A/B/A film structures composed of "A" skin layers comprising an mLLDPE having a density of between about 0.918 and 0.927 g/cm³, as recited in the pending claims.

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The 409 publication teaches a polymer blend composed of very low density polyethylene ("VLDPE") having a density below 0.916 g/cm³ and a high density polyethylene ("HDPE") having a density greater than 0.940. *See p.2, first full paragraph.* The polymer blend is used to prepare films having an A/B/A structure wherein "A" layers are a conventional film and B layers are composed of the polymer blend. *See p.32, 2nd paragraph.* The "A" layers are generally composed of VLDPE, low density polyethylene ("LDPE"), linear low density polyethylene ("LLDPE"), medium density polyethylene ("MDPE"), or high density polyethylene ("HDPE"). *See p.32, 3rd paragraph.* The "A" layer polyethylenes are prepared with metallocene or Zeigler-Natta catalysts. *Id.*

But, the 409 reference does not teach A/B/A film structures having "A" layers composed of mLLDPE having a density of between about 0.918 and 0.927 g/cm³. Having only the general teaching of the 409 publication and faced with the myriad metallocene polyethylenes disclosed therein, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the teaching of the 409 publication to achieve the subject matter recited in the pending claims.

Moreover as shown in Table 3, the films recited in the pending claims exhibit unexpectedly improved strength, stiffness, and puncture resistance. For example, the films described in Applicants examples exhibited a 1% sec. modulus (MD) as high as 547 MPa, i.e., film no. 8, and an Elmendorf tear values (MD) as high as 13.4 gr/μm, i.e., film no. 12.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

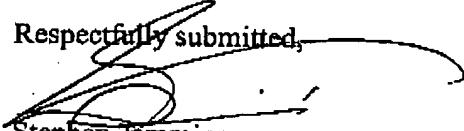
Applicants believe that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present claims meet all the requirements for patentability. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of pending claims 1 and 3-18 are requested.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 05-1712, for any fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Date: 2/23/07

Respectfully submitted,


Stephen Timmins
Registration No. 48,481

ExxonMobil Chemical Company
Law Technology
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, Texas 77522-2149
Telephone No. (281) 834-2866
Facsimile No. (281) 834-2495